

Claims

1. Apparatus for the distribution of a random stream of items (10) into several lanes (11 to 16) in which the items (10) are transported individually one after the other, comprising a transport device (20) for the items (10) which has one or more driven conveyor belts (22) and side rails (24), and a lane divider (30) which has at least one divider (34) which divides the stream of transported items (10), the divider (34) being movable, characterized by a device (40) for driving the lane divider (30), so that the at least one divider (34) carries out a back and forth movement in the direction of transport and/or transversely to it.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the lane divider (30) has a frame (32), to which several dividers (34) are fixed.
3. Apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the middle divider (34) projects against the direction of transport and the side dividers (34) are set back staggered.
4. Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the distance between the side rails (26, 36) is increased stepwise in the direction of transport, the

increase commencing at a point which corresponds approximately to the diameter of an item (10) in front of the tip of the frontmost divider (34).

5. Apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the steps (28, 29, 38) are rounded in a grooved manner.
6. Apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the rail is divided and the part (36) of the rail in the area of the lane divider (30) can be moved outwards.